and State Seeds Corporation it has been found that crop loss was due to improper agronomic practices followed, poor crop management, pest attacks, improper plant protection measures, poor fertilizer management, cattle grazing, natural calamities like drought, floods, etc. Sub-standard seeds (i.e. having less germination) were found in the seed samples drawn under the routine Quality Control Programme from the stock kept for sale by private and public sector seed producers/dealers and tested in the notified Seed Testing.

One case of spurious DAP Fertilizer was noticed in Okadi Village of Gulbarga taluk of Gulbarga District. The Fertilizer Inspector has seized 159 bags of spurious DAP and case was booked against the person who was selling the spurious DAP fertilizer without holding Registration Certificate Licence as per FCO, 1985 in the District Magistrate, Gulbarga. F.I.R. was filed in the Malegaon Police Station of Gulbarga District.

In order to check quality of inputs, 23491 fertilizer samples and 8580 pesticides samples were drawn in the State out of which 427 fertilizer samples and 307 insecticide samples were found non-standard and non-branded respectively during last years. Administrative and legal action was initiated against the dealers and manufacturers who have sold the non-standard fertilizer and non-branded insecticides.

Impact of agricultural trade reforms on prices

5407. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey conducted by the National Council on Applied Economic Research has indicated that agricultural trade reforms are likely to push up prices of cereals as compared to other grains;

(b) whether the survey has also pointed out that this would adversely affect the poorer segments of both the rural and urban society;

(c) if so, what are the other points made in the survey reports;

(d) whether Government have considered the survey report; and

(e) if so, what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (e) National Council on Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has conducted a study on the likely impact of agriculture trade reforms on the consumption expenditure of the poor.

Based on the nominal protection or effective protection co-efficients used in a study published in 1998, one of the findings of the present study is that trade liberalization in agriculture may lead to increase in prices of cereals and decline in prices of pulse, edible oil and arhar. This, according to the study may cause adverse impact on the poorer segment of the society.

However, the conclusions in the study are based on the following assumption:

1. Distribution of consumption expenditure across commodities is of the period 1994-95;
2. Nominal or effective protection co-efficients are taken from a study published in 1998; and
3. The results are based on partial equilibrium frame work which does not take into account income gains resulting from liberalization.

The other main finding of the survey is that the role of Public Distribution System (PDS) may become more important in this scenario.

As can be seen, this is a study constrained in its findings due to the overbearing assumptions.

The, import of agricultural products is being closely monitored by the Government so that the trade liberalization do not cause any adverse impact either on consumers or on producers. The Government has been undertakings various schemes in order to increase the production of cereals, pulses and oilseeds.

KVKs in Southern States

5408. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Governments of Andhra Pradesh and other Southern States have requested to sanction new Krishi Vigyan Kendras; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?